



August 25, 2010

Working together for Kapolei

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Re: State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation Highways Division TIGER II Discretionary Grant
Application for Kapolei Interchange Complex Phases 2 and 3

Dear Secretary LaHood:

By way of introduction, my name is Attilio Leonardi, Jr., and I am the president of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to improve the regional and state economic climate, as well as help Kapolei businesses to establish themselves, grow and thrive. Along with the close to 120 members of the Chamber, we respectfully urge your favorable consideration of the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation Highways Division's TIGER II grant request for the Kapolei Interchange Complex.

The Kapolei Interchange Complex is one of the largest vehicular transportation improvement projects in the State of Hawaii. The project will improve freeway access to the City of Kapolei, the fastest growing urban area in the State. The Interchange Complex consists of three linked freeway interchanges: the existing Makakilo and Palailai Interchanges which will be greatly expanded and the Kapolei Interchange which will be newly constructed. The construction of the Complex will be achieved in phases to match the growth of the Kapolei area and to alleviate the traffic congestion that many area residents consider a top issue affecting quality of life.

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The project is included in the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan 2030 (project numbers 13 and 14) and in the State Transportation Improvement Program (project number S21) as approved by the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization and State and County governments after significant public review processes.

The Kapolei Interchange Complex improves access from the Interstate H-1 Freeway to the City of Kapolei and surrounding areas. Most of the City of Kapolei and the surrounding area are expected to be developed by 2030, with a substantial portion of the development expected to occur by 2012. The existing H-1 Freeway and interstate is inadequate to meet the future projected transportation needs of the region. The H-1 corridor, Makakilo Interchange and Palailai Interchange were built over 30 years ago and must be upgraded to handle growing traffic demands. Improvements are imperative to address the growth, traffic operation, capacity and safety of the area's highway system. The Interstate H-1 Freeway is the primary interstate and regional connector highway in the state and the project has tremendous regional and national significance.

The construction of the Kapolei Interchange Complex is a critical transportation improvement project that will:

- sustain a major plan for economic development in fastest growing area of Hawaii;
- help create more than 40,000 new jobs in Kapolei in the next 20 years;
- alleviate traffic congestion;
- enhance interstate port, industrial and vehicular commerce;
- ensure the public's health and well-being;
- improve access to government lands; and,
- protect Hawaii's fragile environment.

This critical transportation improvement will relieve congestion, provide access for future mass transit options, and sustain a major plan for economic development in Oahu's fastest growing urban area and the designated Secondary Urban Center for the island of Oahu. Government's policy of directing the island's future growth to Kapolei will change Oahu's development pattern, reverse the flow of traffic, prevent urban sprawl and preserve open space. The Kapolei Long Range Master Plan balances economic development, quality of life and environmental stewardship, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. This project represents a valuable use of tax-payers funds because it will relieve traffic congestion in the fastest growing area of Oahu, which has one of the worst "drive time" travel time conditions in the country.

The Kapolei Interchange Complex will provide the only public access from the H-1 Freeway and Kalaeloa Harbor, the second busiest port in the state. The Interchange will provide intermodal connectivity between these two important facilities.

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Further, the U.S. Military's significant presence on the island of Oahu and use of these important transportation facilities underscores the need for an access between the H-1 and the Harbor under the Department of Transportation ownership and control. In addition, the Kapolei Interchange Complex provides the only access to the State of Hawaii's primary heavy industrial area, the Campbell Industrial Park, where all of Oahu's solid waste and petrochemical processing occurs.

We are pleased to support the continued construction of the Kapolei Interchange Complex because of its importance to the State and region of Kapolei.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Attilio Leonardi".

Attilio Leonardi, Jr.
President
Kapolei Chamber of Commerce

cc: Brennon Morioka, Director, State of Hawaii Department of Transportation
Edwin Sniffen, Highways Administrator, State of Hawaii Department of Transportation